

DOCKET NO: 209545US0X



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
MASANORI FUKUI, ET AL. : EXAMINER: HOFFMANN, J. M.
SERIAL NO: 09/892,865 :
FILED: JUNE 28, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1731
FOR: SYNTHETIC QUARTZ POWDER, :
ITS PRODUCTION PROCESS, AND
SYNTHETIC QUARTZ CRUCIBLE

SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

SIR:

Supplemental to the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith entering the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 16, 2004, Applicants respectfully submit that the Amendment After Final Rejection filed January 16, 2004, summarizes, explicitly or implicitly, the reasons presented by Applicants at the January 9, 2004, personal interview as to why the application should be allowed.

Applicants note that at the interview Applicants pointed out to the Examiner that the limitation of "baking ... under a low pressure atmosphere at a pressure of less than 100 Pa *and* at a baking temperature in a range of from more than 600°C to less than 1400°C" requires than the pressure of less than 100 Pa and temperature of from more than 600°C to less than 1400°C occur simultaneously. However, the Examiner expressed uncertainty as to whether the limitation requires that the recited pressure and temperature occur

simultaneously. In addition, the Examiner conjectured that "a temperature in a range of from more than 600°C to less than 1400°C" describes a temperature range of from minus infinity to plus infinity, but that a "temperature, T, in a range of $600^{\circ}\text{C} < T < 1400^{\circ}\text{C}$ " does not.

Respectfully submitted,

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